

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CU-02 /077 W

----- 025929

P R 241800Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8155

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10608

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: ULETIDE DISQUIET

REF: LIMA 10322

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH PERU IS EXPERIENCING ITS NORMAL END-OF-YEAR REDUCTION IN POLITICAL ACITIVITY, ALL HAS NOT BEEN TRANQUIL AND SOME TROUBLE SPOTS MAR THE PEACCEFUL SCENE. NO POLITICAL CIRISIS IS ANTICIPATE BUT BARIOUS INDICATIONS OF DISQUIET PERSIST. END SUMMARY.

1. NORMALLY TRANQUIL HOLIDAY PERIOD MARRED SOMEWHAT THIS YEAR BY SEVERAL TENSION-PRODUCING POLITICAL AND LABOR DEVELOPMENTS. CONTINUING LABOR AGITATION IS PERHAPS MSOT INTRACTABLE PROBLEM FACING GOP AT YEAR'S NED. ON DECEMBER 22 THE SPCC TOQUEPALA WORKERS WALKED OUT IN INDEFINITE STRIKE. ISSUES ARE CONTRACT DEMANDS AND CALL FOR RELEASE OF RECENTLY IMPRISONED UNION LEADERS. TOQUEPALA UNION CLAIMS FOUR MORE OF ITS OFFICIALS WERE ARRESTED OVER LAST WEEKEND. SITUATION AT MINE WAS EXTREMELY TENSE DECEMBER  
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19 WEHN WORKERS, THREATEND WITH LOSS OF CHRITTMAS

BONUS, PLANNED A MASS MARCH ON RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES AND FOREIGNERS ARE HOUSED. FACED WITH POSSIBLE VIOLENCE SPCC, AT REQUEST OF GOP, DECIDED TO PAY BONUS IN SPITE OF IMMINENT STRIKE. SITUATION NOW SOMEWHAT CALMED DOWN ALTHOUGH STRIKE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE THROUGH END OF YEAR WITH CONSEQUENT LOSS OF PRODUCTION.

2. PROVINCIAL ELECTRICAL WORKERS HAVE ALSO WALKED OUT IN ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTION. GOP HAS SENT MILITARY TO HUANCAYO, TARMA AND MANTARO AREAS TO PROTECT AND OPERATE ELECTICAL INSTALLATIONS. LIMA ELECTRICAL WORKERS PROCLAIMED SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKERS BUT HAVE REFRAINED THIS FAR FROM JOINING STRIKE.

3. MEANWHILE COMMUNIST CGTP UNION HAS CALLED FOR 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IN LIMA CALLAO AREA ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29. STRIKE IS OSTENSIBLY IN SUPPORT OF SHOE WORKERS BUT IS CLEARLY POLITICAL IN INSPIRATION.

4. RIVAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT FACTIONS (MOSCOW-LINE VERSUS FAR LEFT) IN AREQUIP ENGAGED IN WEEKEND CONFRONTATION RESULTING IN ONE DEATH AND SEVERAL SERIOUS INJURIES. GOP SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED BASIC HANDS-OFF POLICY IN HOPES OF CONFINING ALTERCATION TO CAMPUS BUT THERE HAVE BEEN UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME GUARDIA CIVIL OFFICIALS WERE WOUNDED IN STUDENT CLASHES.

5. PRESS COVERAGE OF CHILEAN OFFER ON BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR TO THE SEA THROUGH FORMER PERUVIAN TERRITORY REPORTEDLY HAS PRODUCED A NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG SOME MILITARY OFFICERS IN SOUTH. THEY APPARENTLY EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL, URGING GOP TO EXERCISE TREATY OF ANCON VETO IN ORDER TO HALT BOLIVIAN/CHILEAN NEGOTIATIONS. MID-LEVEL GOP OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT HIS VIEW IS NOT REALISTIC AND WILL NOT PREVAIL.

COMMENT: LABOR AND STUDENT ACTION, BOLIVIAN/CHILEAN ISSUE, INCREASING SECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SOME UNVERTAINTY CONCERNING UPCOMING GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES, AND PERSISTENT CONFIDENTIAL

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RUMORS OF MORE EXTENSIVE GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION LEND AN AIR OF UNCERTAINTY TO OTHERWISE TRANQUIL HOLIDAY ATMOSPHERE. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL PENDING GOVERNMENT SHIFT CONCERNS THE DESIGNATION OF GENERAL FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AS PRIME MINISTER; A GOP SOURCE CLOSE TO FERNANDEZ MALDONADO TOLD EMBOFF THAT FERNANDEZ IS CERTAIN TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER (AND WAR MINISTER) ON JANUARY 31 AND WILL IN FACT ASSUME WAR MINISTRY DUTIES JANUARY 3

WHEN, SOURCE STATED, PRIME MINISTER VARGAS PRIETO IS EXPECTED TO TRAV  
EL  
TO WALTER REED FOR OPERATION (EMBASSY HAS NO CONFIRMATION  
FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE VARGAS PRIETO IS PLANNING THIS TRIP).  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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